

NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More than 23,000 Citations Issued during Indiana's "Click It or Ticket" Seat Belt Mobilization

Indianapolis, IN. – The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving today announced that 23,579 citations were issued to unrestrained motorists during the 2008 "Click It or Ticket" seat belt mobilization.

More than 250 state and local law enforcement agencies worked approximately 13,000 hours of overtime from May 16 – June 1 to enforce Indiana's primary seat belt law and to prevent unnecessary tragedies from occurring on Indiana's roadways over the Memorial Day holiday.

"Although Indiana currently has a record seat belt usage rate of 88.4 percent which accounts for motorists (and passengers) who buckle up in passenger motor vehicles and pickup trucks, the fact remains that some individuals still refuse to comply with Indiana's seat belt law – the citation numbers bear this out," said Neil Moore, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI). "The goal of this high-visibility enforcement effort was to detect those motorists who still don't take this law seriously, and the results show that we did just that," Moore added.

According to the 2007 Annual Observational Survey, Indiana's overall observed seat belt usage rate increased from 62.1 percent in 2000 to a record high of 88.4 percent in 2007. The survey also reported a 22 point increase of seat belt usage among pickup truck drivers – jumping from 49.5 percent in 2005 to 71.5 percent in 2007.

Although 23,579 citations were issued during this statewide mobilization for non-restraint use, a total of 30,617 citations were handed out in Indiana for improper use of child restraints, speeding, and other traffic violations. A total of 559 arrests were made during the "Click It or Ticket" mobilization, many of which were related to driving under the influence.

While the intent of the "Click It or Ticket" mobilization is not to write tickets, but to save lives, the statewide enforcement effort also rids streets and neighborhoods of drugs, weapons and other hazards that lead to criminal activity. The following table outlines several significant events and arrests that occurred throughout the state during this effort:

"Every Seat, Every Trip, Every Time."

101 West Washington Street • Suite 1170 East • Indianapolis, IN. 46204 • 317.232.1295

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County	Agency	Events
Howard	Kokomo PD	A total of 111 seatbelt citations issued; two child restraint citations; and two warrant arrests.
Tipton	Tipton County Sherriff's Department	Five criminal arrests – two DUI's (one misdemeanor and one felony) one minor consumption; one habitual traffic offender; one felony warrant.
Wayne	Richmond PD	Arrests for possession of cocaine; failure to appear warrant; possession of stolen property; one vehicle theft recovery; one license never obtained.
Grant	Grant County Sheriff's Department	Several arrests made for violation of probation, DUI, drug possession and other charges.
Noble	Noble County Sheriff's Department	Arrests with charges of resisting law enforcement, DUI, driving while suspended, reckless driving, refusal to identify self, and possession of stolen property. Tank used for the storage of anhydrous ammonia also discovered.
DeKalb	Auburn PD	A minor transporting alcohol was arrested after being stopped for a seatbelt violation; a small amount of methamphetamine and related paraphernalia was found which resulted in the driver's arrest.
Wabash	Wabash County Sheriff's Department	Driver was arrested on an active arrest warrant for possession of marijuana. Marijuana and pills (controlled substance) were also discovered in the vehicle.
Tippecanoe	Tippecanoe County Traffic Safety Partnership	1440 citations issued for failure to wear seatbelts; seven citations issued for improper child restraint.

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“Click It or Ticket” is a statewide enforcement effort that is supported by federal funding allocated to the Traffic Safety division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Indiana’s enforcement mobilization is reinforced by a statewide paid advertising buy and targeted public outreach efforts aimed at comprehensively promoting the life-saving benefits of regular seat belt use to all motorists.

The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, an advisory body to the Traffic Safety division of ICJI, serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways.

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